



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Caribou-Targhee National Forest  
Soda Springs Ranger District

410 East Hooper Avenue  
Soda Springs, ID 83276  
208-547-4356

File Code: 2210

Date: 23 May, 2011

Lynn Rasmussen  
168 Lago Liberty Road  
Grace, ID 83241

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN  
RECEIPT REQUESTED  
NUMBER:**

Dear Lynn;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Diamond Creek Cattle Allotment**. These instructions are guidelines for managing this allotment during the 2011 grazing season. We have also included your **Actual Use Form, which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Soda Springs Ranger District by November 30, 2011.**

### **1. Permittee and Permitted Livestock**

Listed below are the permittees on the allotment, permitted numbers, and livestock class.

Permittee	Permitted Livestock	Season f Use	Class
Lynn Rasmussen	280	6/11-10/10	Cow/Calf
Totals	280		

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season. As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

### **2. Grazing Rotation**

The 2010 order of unit rotation is outlined in this section. The grazing system is a deferred rotation system. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted depending on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. Please contact us five days prior to when your cattle will enter the Forest.

#### **2011 Grazing Rotation**

Unit	4	3	2	1a	1b
Season	6/25-7/12	7/13-8-13	8/14-9/2	9/3-10/10	
#days	18	32	20	38	

These dates and days are tentative and will depend on utilization of key areas.

The schedule outlined above is only an estimate. Time allowed in each unit will be based on distribution of livestock and utilization of key areas. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**



### **3. Grazing Standards and Guidelines**

The riparian grazing standards and guides for the allotment are found in the *Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide Version 1-2, 2005(GIG)*, these standards and are now made a part of your permit. Once these standards are met you must keep cattle out of the area or move to the next pasture. If you have used all the pastures then you will have to take livestock home.

Diamond Creek is one of the main riparian areas on the allotment and it will be monitored as a trigger for use. This stream is also currently listed under the 303-D listing for bacteria. To improve the overall water quality it is important to maintain the functionality of the riparian area. Diamond Creek is currently in Stream Group 11 (SG-11). Standards from the GIG for SG-11 stream types are displayed in Table 3-1. These standards are specific to the pastures that Diamond Creek flows through.

Utilization standards drop down one level when a stream is listed 303-D; this is the case with Diamond Creek. Diamond Creek was Functioning at Risk high in 2010 on the lower reach (Units 1,2,3) and at Proper Functioning Condition in the upper reach (Unit 4).

In Unit #4, green line stubble heights will be 5 inches in spring, 6 inches in summer, and 8 inches in the fall.

The other units along Diamond Creek will be 6 in spring, and 8 inches for summer and fall. Bank disturbance is not allowed to exceed 15%, in any grazing season.

**Table 3-1. Site Specific Riparian Utilization Standards for Diamond Creek**

**Vegetation sampling will be conducted along the Greenline**

<b>Season of Use</b>	<b>Properly Functioning Condition</b>	<b>Functioning at Risk (high to Moderate) % Stubble height</b>	<b>Functioning at Risk (Low to Non-Functioning) % Stubble height</b>	<b>Non Functioning (States C&amp;D) % Stubble height</b>
<b>Spring</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Summer</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

**Table 3-2. Riparian Utilization Standards for streams other than Diamond Creek**

**Vegetation sampling will be conducted within the (AIZ)**

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition	Functioning at Risk (high to Moderate) % Stubble height	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non-Functioning) % Stubble height	Non Functioning (States C&D) % Stubble height
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/3	20/6+	35/5

For table 3-2 the first number in the box is the percentage of the key vegetation that is allowed to be used: the second number is the stubble height remaining at that use level.

**Table 3-3. Upland Utilization Standards for the Diamond Creek Allotment**

Allowed Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and Herbaceous Species (% Dry Weight)	35	45	55
Shrubs (Annual Leader Growth)	10	20	35

Upland standards for the uplands are shown in Table 3-3 above; use is dependent on location relevant to wildlife winter range. The Diamond Creek C&H Allotment has no areas that are considered to be winter range or critical winter range

As the season progresses Forest Personnel will routinely check the range conditions within your allotment. If their monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage, or that other resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts early removal of the livestock from the allotment may be necessary. If the Forest Service requires you to remove your livestock from the allotment before the end of your permitted grazing season you may be eligible for a credit toward next years grazing fees. This credit must be requested in writing when you turn in your Actual Use Form in the fall.

#### **4. Special Instructions.**

This year all AOI's will again be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

It is very important to make certain that the cattle do not use the riparian areas too heavily. Riparian areas will be monitored during grazing use and after the cattle leave each unit. If riparian areas show heavier use than the allowable standards at the end of the units grazing season you will not be allowed to continue with full numbers in the future. Riding and proper placement of salt are key practices that can help with distribution.

The cattle will be required to leave when proper use is reached (riparian and upland utilization standards listed above).

The spread of noxious weeds on the Diamond Creek Allotment continues to be a concern. We are planning another weed day in the allotment area this year; you will be notified when it is scheduled. Please plan to participate.

You have been issued a 2010 Caribou-Targhee National Forest permit for travel off designated routes. When you carry this permit it authorizes you to travel off of designated routes with an ATV for the purpose of **maintaining improvements and spraying weeds. It does not authorize you to travel off designated routes to salt or check animals.**

## **5. Wolf Recovery Management:**

The following statement came from the Idaho Fish and Game web site 2/17/11  
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/current.cfm>

### **Current Legal Status**

August 5, 2010, wolf management south of Interstate 90 reverted to a section of the Endangered Species Act known as the 10(j) rule.

Simply put, the 10(j) rule allows states and tribes with approved wolf management plans some options to manage wolves to ensure the health of wild elk and deer herds. It also provides more flexibility to protect livestock and private property. The rule allows individuals on private or public land to kill a wolf that is in the act of attacking their stock animals (horses, mules, donkey, llamas, goats used to transport people and possessions) or dogs provided there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding or deliberate attractants of wolves. On land north of Interstate 90 in Idaho, or land administered by the National Park Service, wolves may be killed only to protect human life.

## **6. Permittee Responsibilities**

- A. *Salting*** - Salt should be placed in lightly used areas and used as a distribution tool. Salt is not permitted in riparian areas, forest plantations, shade-up areas, roads, or areas where cattle normally tend to congregate. Use of a packhorse is recommended to get salt into areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving excessively heavy use.

- B. Herding** - Effective and frequent riding is a good method of achieving uniform forage utilization and extending use in riparian areas. The longer cattle can be kept out of these key areas, the longer they can remain in the unit. **Cattle should be "cleaned" out of units within a week after the move date.** Units should be checked regularly to ensure cattle have not drifted back into previously grazed areas.
- C. Weed-free hay** - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "weed free".
- D. Maintaining Improvements** - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on your allotment will result if improvements do not meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed prior to cattle entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

**a. Fence Maintenance Standards**

Wire

- Broken wires should be spliced or replaced. Wire spacing and height should be consistent with the original construction.
- Loose wire should be re-stretched. Damaged clips and stays need to be replaced. Wire that is breaking frequently should be replaced.

Posts

- Damaged and rotted wood posts will be replaced. Posts that have been pushed over by snow or wire tension need to be reset.
- Bent steel posts need to be straightened or replaced.

Braces

- Loose or missing brace wires need to be tightened or replaced.
- Damaged or rotten brace posts will be replaced. Straighten and reset any posts that have settled or are crooked.

Let-Down Fences

- Let-down fences will be put up before the beginning of the grazing season and taken down at the end of the grazing season.
- The let-down design of the fence will be maintained. Retighten let-down spans that have loose wire, replace broken stays, and replace missing staples or wire loops.

**b. Water Development Maintenance Standards**

Springboxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from headboxes.
- Damaged headbox covers need to be repaired or replaced.
- Repair any damaged fence around springs.
- A galvanized screen must be kept on the intake pipe in the headbox. Replace and repair screens as needed.
- Water should be kept in the trough throughout the grazing season.

#### Pipelines and Troughs

- Cracked or broken pipelines need to be replaced. Clean plugged pipelines.
- Drain pipes must be kept open, operating, and able to drain overflow at least 20 feet away from trough.
- Clean sediment from troughs. Repair and clean overflows and float valves. Level troughs and reset when needed. Replace broken trough braces.
- Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in every water trough, contact your Forest range manager to obtain these ramps.

#### Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stock water ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

#### **E. Completion of Forms**

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30, 2011.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	Office	Cell
<b>Jack Isaacs District Ranger</b>	208) 547-4356	
<b>Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-4356	
<b>Vic Bradfield Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1107 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7904 208) 220-2814
<b>Jane Rushane Range Specialist</b>	208) 847-0375 208) 847-8939	208) 313- 5683

Sincerely,

/S/JACK ISAACS

23 MAY, 2011

JACK L. ISAACS  
District Ranger

VB/  
Enclosure

**Annual Operating Instructions  
Soda Springs Ranger District  
Diamond Creek C&H Allotment  
2010**



**Accepted By:**

/S/ Lynn Rasmussen

**Lynn Rasmussen**

4/27/2011

**Date**

**Approved By:**

/S/ Jack L. Isaacs

**Jack L. Isaacs  
District Ranger**

5/23/2011

**Date**